(b) the details of the market stake of BSNL during the last three years; and

(c) the future plans of BSNL to increase its market stake?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, the total percentage of Market share of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) as on 31.1.2008 is 24.74%.

(b) The market share of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) during the last three years is given below:

As On	%age of Market share of BSNL
31.3.2005	47.69
31.3.2006	39.27
31.3.2007	31.29

(c) To increase its market share, BSNL plans to expand its network by 3 million lines per month. In order to retain the customers, BSNL has introduced many schemes at competitive rates for fixed telephones including WLL considering the need for customers and prevailing market conditions from time to time. The rates offered by BSNL are competitive and affordable to the customers. BSNL has taken following steps to increase its market share:

(i) Reduction in the tariff for all basic services.

(ii) Launch of BSNL ONE INDIA tariff scheme.

(iii) Reduction in rentals for Sulabh Plan.

(iv) Empowering CGMs of Telecom Circles to launch Circle based competitive tariffs for basic and Cellular Services to face competition effectively.

Insurance scheme for girls

2178. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to introduce insurance scheme for girls through the Department of Post;

(b) if so, the details of expected beneficiaries, State-wise;

(c) whether Government would request the State Governments to share a part of the premium amount for this scheme which would be more beneficial to those who belonged to rural and poor background; and

(d) if so, the stance of the State Governments and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) Department of Posts has not as yet come up with an insurance scheme exclusively for girls. Some suggestions have been received and these are under consideration by the Department.